Appl. No. 09/822,449 Amendment/Response Reply to Office action of 09/28/2004

## IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph number 1 (beginning on page 1 of the specification and ending on page 2) as follows:

As these devices have become more versatile and more complex, simple manual control is no longer sufficient. Furthermore, as more and more devices become available, interoperability starts to become a problem. Many vendors use their own communication protocols to allow their devices to interact, but devices from different vendors cannot interact. To overcome these problems, several interoperability standards have been defined, which allow different devices to exchange messages and information and to control each other. One well-known standard is the Home Audio/Video Interoperability (HAVi) standard, version 1.0 of which was published in January 2000<sub>2</sub>, and which is available on the Internet at the address <a href="http://www.havi.org/">http://www.havi.org/</a>. Another well-known standard is the domestic digital bus (D2B) standard, a communications protocol described in IEC 1030.